



## Researchers from the LIVINGAGRO project visit the ancient olive trees and some olive groves in Bchaaleh village (Activity 3.4.1)



Photo by Dr. Milad El Riachy

### **ACTIVITY COORDINATED BY THE LEBANESE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (LARI)**

The LIVINGAGRO team conducted the fifth field visit in Lebanon to Bchaaleh village in Batroun (North Lebanon) on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 2023. Researchers and engineers from LARI and from the Lebanese University (LU) in addition to fourteen interested stakeholders from the region participated in the visit.

The day began by a presentation in the Municipality of Bchaaleh to introduce the participants to the LIVINGAGRO project: its background, objectives, activities, and expected results. Then, the participants discussed with the LIVINGAGRO team the problems that they are facing in their orchards and their specific needs for innovations such as maintaining soil fertility and producing good quality olives and olive oil to solve their problems. The researchers from LARI and LU tried to assist the farmers in resolving these



problems by introducing them to some modern technologies to improve working conditions, increase biodiversity and the quantity and quality of the production. Moreover, the experts tried to assist the stakeholders on the best ways to preserve the ancient olive trees of Bchaaleh as national and international patrimony and to increase their values by promoting them as a site for ecotourism because they are considered among the oldest in the World.

After that, all the participants visited the ancient olive trees in Bchaaleh and some of the olive orchards in the region, and discussed onsite practically how to apply some of the relevant innovations in these orchards based on the nature of the soils and the design of the traditional plantations in the region. All participants shared their experiences and opinions about the olive and olive oil sector in Lebanon and developed their knowledge regarding the agroforestry and the living laboratories concept.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Dr. Milad EL RIACHY  
Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI)  
Head of Olive and Olive Oil Department  
Tal Amara, Bekaa, Lebanon  
Email: [mriachy@lari.gov.lb](mailto:mriachy@lari.gov.lb)



Photos by Dr. Peter Moubarak